

TRUCKING AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

- Fact State Highways 5, 9 and 56 are designed to carry 80,000 pounds. The typical weight for a loaded silica hopper truck is 78,000 to 82,000 pounds, pushing the recommended weight limit. 18 wheelers can't negotiate sharp curves without dropping off the edge or going over the center line, increasing accident risks
- Fact Evergreen has not shared information about their haul routes. If they use county roads, the county will be responsible for repairs caused by multiple loads on a daily basis at or above maximum capacity.
- Fact In Arkansas, in 2005, 132 large trucks were involved in fatal truck accidents* (NHTSA). This is above the national average. One out of eight traffic fatalities in 2000 resulted from a collision involving a large truck (NHTSA).
- Fact There are no scales or inspection stations in the area.
- Fact The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations permit trucking companies to destroy all trucking records, including driver log books, after a six month period so history on drivers is limited.

Questions to Ask

- With no scales or inspection stations in the area, how will loads and trucks be inspected for proper weights and safe operational conditions and how will this information be open for public review? The trucks will make daily runs at or near maximum capacity on rough roads so wear and tear will be a major concern.
- How many people live along proposed and alternative haul routes? How many of them are elderly or teen drivers? Are there any day care centers or schools along the proposed routes? How will the additional truck traffic affect people who use the haul routes to access their homes, workplaces, and recreation areas?
- Can the quarry/mine limit the hours of trucking each day (at least one of the operations is planning a 20 hour per day schedule) in order to reduce the noise and traffic?
- Repairing damage to state roads is the responsibility of the state. Does the County have any concrete plans from the state to repair the roads if the additional truck traffic/loads causes deterioration to the roads? Should this plan be in place before these new industries with this new heavy truck traffic start to travel our roads?

Want more information? Here are some sources to investigate:
National Highway Traffic Safety administration www.nhtsa.dot.gov

Information about accident statistics involving trucks www.lawyerforyou.com/truck-accident-statistics/arkansas-truck-accidents.html

*NHTSA 2005 data: The number of fatal accidents involving large trucks was 2.7% of the US total (average would be 2%)